

Hot sun can't diminish fun at junior-high rally

Event attracts 250 to Keuka

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

KEUKA PARK — Give credit for some incredible foresight to organizers of the first-ever diocesan Junior High Youth Rally.

As sweltering heat engulfed the diocese last week, there seemingly couldn't have been a better choice than Keuka College as the setting for this day-long event.

Facilities at the college came in very handy for the all-day rally, held this past Saturday, July 10. Most of the approximately 250 participants sampled Keuka College's refreshing waters, located right next to campus. In addition, the school's indoor swimming pool was also put to good use.

However, the youth rally's biggest attraction may be the eight-flavor ice cream dispenser in the college cafeteria. Sweat-soaked participants lined up quickly during lunch and dinner breaks, anxiously awaiting the opportunity to make their own cones.

These were just a few of the many activities available for the junior-high ages youths who attended the rally. Other fun events included: volleyball games played with a giant beach ball; games of Twister; a combination baseball-dodgeball contest; a sponge-throwing war in the lake; and — perhaps the day's most off-the-wall acti-



Youths sing during Joe Trionfero's 'Show of Love' at the Junior High Youth Rally, held at Keuka College July 10.

vity — a drill in which blindfolded participants were instructed to perform "The Chicken Dance." Not until the afternoon ended with a youth Mass and closing dinner did a sense of normalcy return to the proceedings.

"We wanted this to be a day to go out, play games and have fun — be-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Members of the Diocesan Youth Committee come together for a group hug. The day's activities included indoor and outdoor games, a special liturgy and a closing dinner.

cause with junior-high children, there has to be a lot of activity going on," remarked Michael Theisen, the diocesan youth ministry coordinator.

The day's wild-and-crazy happenings got off to a rousing start in the college gymnasium with a rousing "Show of Love" by Joe Trionfero. The Baldwinsville, N.Y., entertainer screamed into his microphone, jumped off loudspeakers and gave big hugs to surprised youths as he voiced a more solemn message — the need to spread love around.

"We need to look past the bad and see only the good," Trionfero shouted to the gathering as he donned a pair of oversized glasses.

As the hour-long session neared its conclusion, Trionfero made successful efforts at getting the audience to join in a chorus for inspiring songs such as "That's What Friends are For" and "Heal the World."

"I go right for their throats, because I know that love for (junior-high aged students) is a silly term," Trionfero explained to the *Catholic Courier*. "We tell

them what love really is — it's something that we want to show to all human beings."

Twelve-year-old Nicole Mangus, a parishioner at St. Michael's Church in Newark, noted that Trionfero at first "seemed like a jumping clown, but at the end he seemed like a normal person. He was really ambitious."

Jason Telech, a 13-year-old parishioner at Eastside Catholic Parish in Elmira, was left with a similar impression.

"I thought he was nuts at first, but it was kind of inspiring," said Telech.

Theisen said that the youth rally had been in the planning stages since last summer. He acknowledged the importance of planning an event that catered to children in the age 12-14 range, due to the fact that junior-high involvement in parish youth groups is generally lower than high-school participation.

"We had this so we could initiate excitement around junior-high ministry," Theisen said.

63rd ANNUAL SOLEMN NOVENA TO SAINT ANNE

July 18 to 26, 1993 Nightly at 7:30pm

1993 Theme: "The Family of Jesus"

Guest Preacher: Fr. Bernard G. Dupont, O.P.

- Sunday, July 18 "Rosary Tableau"
Special rendition of the fifteen mysteries
- Monday, July 19 Our birth into the Family of Jesus
1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Tuesday, July 20 One with Jesus in Heaven
Mark 4:35-5:42
- Wednesday, July 21 Bread from Heaven, "Feed my sheep"
Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 23
- Thursday, July 22 Children of God: One with the Son
Mark 8:22-10:45
- Friday, July 23 The Prince of Peace
Mark 10:46-11:1
- Saturday, July 24 A Great Light has Shown
John 1:1-18
- Sunday, July 25 All God's Children Come Home
Matthew 1-3, Luke 2:6-8
- Monday, July 26 The Light of the World
Numbers 22-24; Revelation 12:1-2



Saint Anne

Solemn Eucharist for the Feast of Joachim & Anne

Services on Monday through Sunday consist of Evening Prayer, Sermon and Novena Prayers. A liturgical blessing of the sick will be given individually after each service to those who wish.



Bernard Dupont was born in Detroit, Michigan, raised in Montreal, Canada, and ordained a Dominican Priest twenty-five years ago. A religious educator with 18 years of parochial ministry, a missionary in Kenya, he has become an itinerant preacher sharing his scriptural and symbolic insights to help people grow in faith.

SAINT ANNE CHURCH

1500 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620

The public is cordially invited. The Church building is air-conditioned.